

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

CECIL KOGER,)	
)	Case No. 4:17-CV-02409
Plaintiff,)	
)	Judge Benita Y. Pearson
v.)	
)	AFFIDAVIT OF CECIL KOGER
GARY MOHR, et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

CECIL KOGER, having been first duly sworn according to law, hereby deposes and states of his personal knowledge as follows:

1. I am of legal age and sound mind, capable of making this affidavit, and personally acquainted with the facts herein stated.
2. I am currently an inmate at Richland Correctional Institution ("RCI").
3. Prior to RCI, I was an inmate at Trumbull Correctional Institution ("TCI").
I have been housed in several different Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction ("ODRC") facilities since 2000.
4. I have been a committed member of the Nyahbinghi Rastafarian Order since 2000. My family has practiced Rastafarianism for multiple generations.
5. I have requested several accommodations in the past to allow me to practice Rastafarianism. These include requests to keep my dreadlocks, to have communion with other Rastafarians through "groundings," to fast



and diet according to my religion, and receive Rastafarian literature. True and accurate copies of some of the accommodation requests I submitted to ODRC are attached as Exhibit 1.

6. My branch of Rastafarianism, the Nyahbinghi Rastafarian Order, requires adherents to wear dreadlocks. This is in accordance with the Nazarite vow. Rastafarians believe that this practice is commanded by the Bible: "They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cutting in their flesh." LEVITICUS 21:5.
7. Rastafarianism requires me to practice a specific diet, called *ital*, which prohibits consuming processed foods.
8. My faith also requires me to fast on particular days throughout the year, and to celebrate religious holidays in worship services called "groundings."
9. I continue to attempt to diet and fast according to my religious beliefs, but ODRC does not facilitate my particular diet or fasting on the days required by Rastafarianism.
10. Despite the lack of accommodation at ODRC facilities, Rastafarianism requires me to find opportunities to eat and fast according to my religious beliefs.
11. I am not a Muslim.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Offender Name	AS Cecil KOSER	Number	# 384-6A8
Institution	T.O. C.I.	Date	12-16-89

1 What is the religion to which you belong?

Rastafari the Nyabingi order!

2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting? "Kosher meats"

non beef non pork non soy it contains MSG.
monosodium Glutamate as well as other ~~drugs~~ food served
in the kitchen containing season enhancer not natural G21,
G22

3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

The Practicing Rastafari
LIVES every day on the basis of his ~~Hamant~~-beliefs
There is ten and two of these ~~rules~~ around what Rastafari
puts into his body. This is called Ital. It is found in the
Kebra Negest, Fetha Negest, the Livity, the bible and
Nyabingi teachings.

4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

Rastafarian Universal Order
P.O. Box 662
Black Mountain N.C. 28711
Office 828-669-4918 RAS Miles Jacob Marley
Fax 828-669-0932 RAS Bobby Sullivan

Offender's Signature	Cecil Koser	Date	
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This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.

DRC4326 (Rev 03/09)

Distribution Religious Services Administrator, On Base file

FEB 03 2010

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Religious Services DepartmentOffender's Appeal of Decision
Regarding Religious AccommodationTO Religious Services Administrator
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43222

Name <u>De'Caril Koger</u>	Number <u>384098</u>
Institution <u>C.O.C.I.</u>	Religious Affiliation <u>Rastafari</u>
	Date of Appeal <u>1-14-10</u>

Your appeal regarding request for religious accommodation is based on *Ital Food*

There has clearly been a lack of knowledge concerning Rastafari food. I have submitted verification of dietary needs of Rastafari to the Mr. Block Chaplain from Rastafari elders Fax, Office and addresses where given to Mr. Block to do more delving into the facts about Rastafari. He still has not contacted them or engaged in any form of verification as to the mandates of adherents to the specific beliefs. A policy for Rastafari in C.O.C.I. has to start somewhere; if the chaplain does not assist us how is there ever going to be requirements for those of the Rastafari religious group. I have supply the paperwork for the practicing Rastafari to ~~Mr. Block~~ Mr. Block he knows and is aware of the special dietary need and has been since I arrived in this inst. The veggie meals do not meet the proper dietary needs of Rastafari they are per se next to regular meals with the same tools, not by a practicing Rastafari and also contains all the same flavor enhancers or seasoning salt as regular meal as well as all veggie supplements in T.O.C.I. contain soy contents. The paperwork the chaplain received from elders of Rastafari clearly states when provisions are not met Rastafari food are more acceptable than meat at all. And it has been made clear to the Chaplain that Rastafari are the offspring of Orthodox Jews state claim to Talsma of Ethiopia the original African Jew of Ethiopia orthodox church which have if not all, most of the same traditions.

With this appeal form, you must include

DRC Form 4326 Request for Religious Accommodation, and
DRC Form 4327 Response to Request for Religious Accommodation

Offender's Signature <u>[Signature]</u>	Date <u>1-14-10</u>
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DRC4442 (03/09)

Distribution Warden, Chaplain, Offender, On Base File

Please send Copies back for Further legal actions Thank You.

OP - Religious Services - 5/4/2010

DRC000225

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From:

Offender Name	Ras. Cecil Koser	Number	# 384-688
Institution	T.O. C.I.	Date	12-11-89

1 What is the religion to which you belong?

Rastafari the Nyabingi Order!

2 What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting? "Kosher meals"

non beef non pork non soy it contains MSG
monosodium Glutamate as well as other ~~other~~ food served
in the kitchen containing season enhancer not natural G21,
G22

3 What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

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LIVES every day on the basis of his Hamaot-beliefs
There is ten and two of these revolves around what Rastafari
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Kebra Negest, Fatha Negest, the Livate, the Bible and
Nyabingi teachings.

4 Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

Rastafarian Universal Order
P.O. Box 662
Black Mountain N.C. 28711
Office 828-669-4918 Ras Miles Jacob Marley
Fax 828-669-0932 Ras Bobby Sullivan

Offender's Signature	Cecil Koser	Date	
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DRC4326 (Rev 03/09)

Distribution Religious Services Administrator, On Base file

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Request For Religious Accommodation

To: Chaplain's Office

From: CECIL KOGAR

Offender Name: CECIL KOGAR	Number: 384-698
Institution: R.I.C.I.	Date: 4-26-18

1. What is the religion to which you belong?

Nyabingi Rastafari

2. What is the specific accommodation that you are requesting?

FOR RASTAFARI Mandates to be recognized and accommodated
 growing of natural locks IAAI Diet (organic, food vegetarian,
 (wearing of Dreads) no soy)
 observance / reading material /
 TAMS / KUFUS (Religious Head wear) Fasts days / Holidays

3. What is the basis for your requested religious accommodation (How is your request supported by the writings or traditions of your religion)?

THE Kebra Nagast, Fetha Nagast
 THE bible "Number 6 Law of Nazirite" Rastafari Tenants
 and mandates "Rastafari living" written by Ras Ambessa Elbank

4. Who are the religious leaders who can verify this request (Please give address and phone numbers, if available)?

Ras Iadannis - Lion of Judah Society
 Ras Christopher Lion Tree - Rastafari Universal Order
 Sister Imani Nyah, The Association of Rastafarian Theologians

Offender's Signature: <i>Cecil Kogar</i> 384698	Date: 4-26-18
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This form is for approval of religious practices or beliefs not currently approved by the ODRC.

